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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/930,000	08/14/2001	Paul K. Dixon	2943	9097

7590 07/26/2004  
Lorraine M. Donaldson, Esq.  
281 Sea Forest Court  
Del Mar, CA 92014

EXAMINER

GARBOWSKI, LEIGH M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2825

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/930,000

**Applicant(s)**

DIXON ET AL.

**Examiner**

Leigh Marie Garbowski

**Art Unit**

2825



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)          |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date, <u>attached here</u> .                               |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                                    |

### ***Claim Objections***

Claims 1 and 11 are objected to because of the following informalities: as per claim 1, the language "prototyping board interface" [line 9 and 10] should be amended to clarify the subject matter, the specification discloses element 10 of figure 1 as a main circuit board, whereas element 38 is a prototyping board; as per claim 11, --module-- should be inserted after "I/O" [line 2] to clarify the antecedent basis. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-16 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: U.S. Patent #5,734,863 to Kodosky et al. notes that other types of configurations for an instrumentation system may include plug-in boards which could assume the function of actual instruments [column 13, lines 38-52]. However, Kodosky et al. do not disclose or teach an electronic circuit prototyping system to anticipate or obviate the particular features recited in elements i) through vi) of claim 1 in combination with features a) through d). Furthermore, there are no such suggestions in the prior art cited below.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kawachi et al. [U.S. Patent #6,690,981] disclose enabling user interface code to be encapsulated into a graphical program. Kodosky et al. [U.S. Patent #6,608,836] disclose configuring a programmable hardware element to perform

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measurement functions. Tan et al. [U.S. Patent #6,263,255] disclose an AddOnSensor Interface (SI) component [column 16, lines 18-49]. Rust et al. [U.S. Patent #6,085,156] disclose instrument interchangeability. Stahl [U.S. Patent #6,049,764] discloses real-time control of analytical and diagnostic instruments comprising an interface module. Bryant et al. [U.S. Patent #5,764,546] disclose configuring channels in a data acquisition device. Mitchell et al. [U.S. Patent #5,724,272] disclose controlling an instrumentation system. Pieper et al. [U.S. Patent #5,371,851] disclose a graphical database editor. Kodosky et al. [U.S. Patent #4,901,221] disclose modeling. Jordan et al. [U.S. Patent #4,868,785] disclose a block diagram editor system for controlling instruments. Stubbs [U.S. Patent #4,812,996] discloses viewing signals in an instrumentation control system. Comfort et al. [U.S. Patent #4,807,161] disclose automatic test equipment.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leigh Marie Garbowski whose telephone number is 571-272-1893. The examiner can normally be reached on days.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Smith can be reached on 571-272-1907. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



LEIGH M. GARBOWSKI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER